



BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING – APRIL 2015

Meeting. The [Board of Corrections](#) met April 10, 2015, at the new Iowa State Penitentiary (ISP) at Fort Madison. Warden Nick Ludwick welcomed the Board, staff, and guests and thanked the employees of the Institution. The new maximum security prison will permit direct supervision of offenders using a unit management style of operation. This is a new offender management style for the Institution; it is not new to the Department of Corrections ([DOC](#)). Warden Ludwick explained that direct supervision permits staff to model appropriate behaviors for offenders. The staff walks and talks with offenders, requiring frequent interactions with small groups of offenders. Warden Ludwick introduced the transition team that developed policies, procedures, and post orders for the new prison. The transition team is a cross section of staff, including but not limited to shift captains, maintenance workers, nurses, teachers, and administrative staff. Warden Ludwick introduced the two Hostage Negotiation Teams from the ISP. These Teams competed against 32 other Teams in San Marcos, TX. They placed first and second in the Corrections Division and in the top ten overall.

Director's Report. The Board congratulated Mr. Jerry Bartruff on the Iowa Senate confirming his appointment as Director of the DOC. He provided a summary to the Board of the prescription drug pilot project for mentally ill offenders. The DOC [report](#) indicates this pilot project is reducing the prison recidivism rate. The pilot project provides a 30-day supply of medications to mentally ill offenders released from prison, two months of prescriptions, and access to vouchers. The project is funded by payments from drug companies that have entered into settlement agreements with the Office of the Attorney General. The DOC is improving communications with the Community-Based Corrections (CBC) District Departments and local boards. The [Attorney General's Office](#) is involved in those discussions. Director Bartruff stated Mr. John Fayram, Warden at the Anamosa State Penitentiary, retired March 31.

New ISP. Director Bartruff indicated some of the smoke issues at the new ISP are easy fixes. The DOC and the Department of Administrative Services ([DAS](#)) Director Janet Phipps are meeting with representatives of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees ([AFSCME](#)) to work on posting all positions at the new prison. All employees will receive an additional day of training and will work through a variety of scenarios before offenders are moved to the new prison. Warden Ludwick indicated Housing Units 1, 2, and 3 are duplicates. Housing Unit 4 has room for 32 psychiatric patients and 24 elderly offenders. The latter are currently housed in the infirmary at the old ISP. The average age of offenders in the Institution is 34 years. The ISP staff and offenders will continue to prepare meals for the [Lee County Jail](#) and the juvenile detention center. The new ISP has a large recreation area and a massive kitchen. This location is totally different than the old ISP. Warden Ludwick believes the physical layout of the Institution will impact positive changes.

ANCHOR Center. [Sixth](#) CBC District Director Bruce Vander Sanden introduced his staff that discussed the opening of the ANCHOR Center. The facility was built in 2008. It has been used as an out-patient facility. The District Department will open the 26-bed facility in April 2015. The facility layout permits housing both genders, but the District Department will be treating male offenders at this time. The facility provides a secure therapeutic treatment environment. Positions for security, treatment, and Parole/Probation Officers (PPOs) have been posted and filled. Offenders may be housed for one year. The staff is hopeful the offenders can be released within six months of admission.

Programming. Deputy Director Dot Faust provided a summary of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and Thinking for a Change (T4C). The ISP staff has been leaders in developing this program that teaches people how their thoughts affect their behavior. The ISP staff is now training the trainers across the state. The T4C program is a 25-session closed program of approximately 10 offenders. There are

two co-facilitators that help the group role play a variety of situations and then evaluate behaviors to apply what they have learned. This program has been proven to reduce assaults and bad behavior within the Institution.

Legislative Update. The DOC Research Director Lettie Prell informed the Board of current live Bills, including [SF 151](#), [HF 6](#), and [HF 567](#). Discussion followed.

Recidivism Reduction. Project Manager Beth Skinner presented information on the Statewide Recidivism Reduction Grant. This is a \$3.0 million grant funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance ([BJA](#)) for three years. The DOC partnered with the Iowa Office of Drug Control Policy ([ODCP](#)) in submitting the grant application and implementing the grant award. The DOC is focusing on building partnerships with state and local government agencies and nonprofit entities to build sustainable capacity. A Steering Committee has been established. Work groups for five proposals have been created; the five proposals are:

- Quality Assurance (QA) planning and implementation.
- Training plan for ongoing updates.
- Pre-Release Plan and policy developments.
- Job competencies determined and incorporated into the hiring and training process.
- CBC and Institutional workload.

Open Discussion. The Board members cited formal banquets at the various Institutions to reward positive offender behaviors. They also expressed appreciation for the program graduations held upon offenders' successful completion. This includes life skills and education programs. Nancy Turner thanked the Board for their service. This is her last meeting as a Board member. Board Chair Reverend Michael Coleman thanked the DOC for creating a summary of the Board's legal responsibilities. He indicated this is a good start, but the Board needs a handbook detailing its responsibilities and authority, and providing formal guidelines.

Old ISP. Warden Ludwick thanked Becky Munoz from Iowa Prison Industries ([IPI](#)) for her leadership in developing the IPI building at the new ISP. The new building will allow up to 100 offenders to be employed. He indicated the staff of ISP and the DOC has been actively meeting with representatives from the [University of Iowa](#), [Iowa State University](#), [Lee County](#) Board of Supervisors, the mayor of the city of [Fort Madison](#), and other interested parties in relation to re-use of the old ISP. They are looking at the old prison in [Jefferson City](#), MO, as a possible template. The DOC will have a presence at the site. The minimum security John Bennett Unit (JBU) is located at the old ISP. The 160-bed facility currently houses 206 offenders.

Next Meeting. The Board is scheduled to meet at the Clarinda Correctional Facility on May 1, 2015. Items for discussion include offender banking and debit cards, inmate telephone system, and the [Office of the Ombudsman report](#).

Additional Information. More information is available on the DOC website at: <http://www.doc.state.ia.us/>.

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